

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: ECON, NATO

SUBJ: ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, FUTURE WORK PROGRAM

REF: A) USNATO 5094; B) USNATO 5374

SUMMARY: ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 15 SET TARGET DATES FOR APPROVED TOPICS FOR STUDY: USSR/EE AGRICULTURE, COMECON, AND SOVIET BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. SEVERAL ECONADS AND SECRETARIAT SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS FOR FUTURE WORK. MISSION REQUESTS ACTION NOTED BELOW, IF POSSIBLE, PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 22. END SUMMARY.

1. ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 15 RENEWED DISCUSSION OF FUTURE WORK PROGRAM (ED/EC/73/99). UK CONFIRMED IT WILL DO PAPER ON COMECON, BUT WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PRODUCE BEFORE APRIL. SECRETARIAT UNDERTAKING REPORT ON SOVIET BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WHICH IT STILL EXPECTS WILL BE COMPLETED BY APRIL. LACKING INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED BY REFTELS, US WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM WE COULD DO PAPER ON USSR/EE AGRICULTURE. ALL ECONADS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN STUDY ON DEVELOPMENT OF PLANNING TECHNIQUES IN EASTERN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY USE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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COMPUTERS, BUT NONE FELT ITS GOVERNMENT POSSESSED CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE PAPER. US REP SAID HE WOULD INQUIRE WHETHER USG WOULD BE WILLING AND ABLE TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A TASK. STILL NO INTEREST SHOWN IN OTHER TOPICS SUGGESTED

PREVIOUSLY BE SECRETARIAT, I.E., THE LOT OF THE SOVIET CONSUMER AND EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN USSR.

2. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION, OTHER ECONADS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN TOPICS NOT MENTIONED HERETOFORE. GERMANY SAID FRG WOULD LIKE TO DO PAPER ON SOVIET NATURAL RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY IN SIBERIA, BUT COULD NOT COMPLETE SUCH A STUDY BEFORE EARLY 1975. FRANCE SUGGESTED INFLATION IN USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE, A SUBJECT WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN SCANT ATTENTION AND IS CERTAINLY DISTINCT PHENOMENON FROM THAT IN WESTERN MARKET ECONOMIES. UK SUGGESTED SOVIET ENERGY RESOURCES AND IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS SOVIET STOCKPILING OF STRATEGIC MATERIALS. CHAIRMAN SAID SECRETARIAT WOULD CONSIDER ALL THESE ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS AND ALSO MENTIONED DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN EASTERN EUROPE AS ANOTHER SUBJECT WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION.

3. DISCUSSION OF INTRA-WESTERN TOPICS LISTED IN ADDENDUM TO ED/EC/73/99 POSTPONED UNTIL SUBSEQUENT MEETING, PROBABLY NOVEMBER 22.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION REQUESTS ADVICE PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 22 ON FOLLOWING:

A. WHETHER WASHINGTON WILL DO USSR/EE AGRICULTURE PAPER AND IF DECEMBER 31 DUE DATE ACCEPTABLE.

B. WHETHER USG WILLING AND ABLE TO UNDERTAKE STUDY ON DEVELOPMENT PLANNING TECHNIQUES IN EASTERN EUROPE, AND IF SO, ESTIMATE DATE FOR COMPLETION SUCH PAPER.

C. DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO NEW TOPICS IN PARA 2 ABOVE SUGGESTED BY OTHER ECONADS AND BY SECRETARIAT.

D. ANY OTHER SUBJECTS WASHINGTON WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING ECONOMIC COMMITTEE STUDY. RUMSFELD

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